

PROCEEDINGS
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TWO NEW MOUSE OPOSSUMS FROM YUCATAN.

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Prof. Geo. F. Gaumer, who is so well known in connection with the natural history of Yucatan, has recently presented several interesting mouse opossums to the Field Museum of Natural History. As suspected by Prof. Gaumer, they prove to represent undescribed forms and are therefore named below, one of them fittingly being dedicated to its discoverer. Spanish descriptions of the same species will appear in Prof. Gaumer's work on the mammals of Yucatan soon to be published by the Department of Biological Survey of Mexico.

Marmosa gaumeri sp. nov.

Type from Yaxcaba, southwest of Chichen Itza, Yucatan, Mexico. No. 19,995 Field Museum of Natural History. Collected Nov., 1912, by G. F. Gaumer.

Characters.—Similar in general to *Marmosa canescens* of the Tehuantepec region, but decidedly smaller; coloration of upper parts suffused with fawn rather than buff; under parts pale creamy instead of buff. Upper parts dull brownish fawn finely and nearly uniformly mixed with dusky producing a general effect which approaches drab or broccoli brown; body color extending down outer sides of fore and hind legs nearly or quite to carpal and tarsal joints; feet creamy white; forehead and nose considerably paler than back; blackish brown eye-ring well developed but not reaching quite to the base of the whiskers anteriorly nor to the ear posteriorly; cheeks, inner sides of legs, and entire under parts pale creamy from the roots of the hairs; tail dull brownish drab above, paler below.

Skull much smaller than that of *M. canescens*; braincase small and narrow; nasals short and narrow, practically without any posterior expansion; postorbital processes and supraorbital shelf highly developed between marked anterior and posterior interorbital constrictions.

Measurements.—Type and additional specimen from Izamal, Yucatan,

measured in the flesh by the collector, respectively: Total length, 205, 217 (261);* head and body, 100, 105 (120); tail, 105, 112 (141); hind foot (estimated), 15, 16 (19.5). Skull of type: Greatest length, 30.4 (32.7); zygomatic breadth, 17.3 (18.9); anterior interorbital constriction, 4.3 (5); posterior interorbital constriction, 5.1 (6.1); width across postorbital processes, 6.9 (7.6); breadth of braincase, 11.4 (13); nasals, 12.3 x 2.8 (13.8 x 3.4); palate length from gnathion, 16.1 (17.6); front of canine to back of fourth upper molar, 11.75 (12.95); combined length of first, second, and third upper molars, 5.6 (5.8).

Remarks.—The disparity in size between this species and its nearest relative *Marmosa canescens* is such that, while intergradation is probable, it can not safely be assumed. The general grayish coloration is amply sufficient to distinguish *gaumeri* from *mayensis*, but there are also marked cranial differences, *gaumeri* having strongly developed postorbital processes set off by decided constrictions in front and behind, whereas *mayensis* has only slight suggestion of these characters. The nearly parallel-sided nasals of *gaumeri* also are distinctive.

***Marmosa mayensis* sp. nov.**

Type from Izamal, Yucatan, Mexico. No. 19,994 Field Museum of Natural History. Collected March, 1913, by G. F. Gaumer.

Characters.—Similar to *Marmosa mexicana*, but paler in color, especially the under parts which are pale creamy white rather sharply defined from the color of the upper parts instead of deep ochraceous practically confluent with the color of the upper parts as in *mexicana*. General color of upper parts cinnamon with a fine almost imperceptible mixture of dusky; sides slightly paler than back and nearly clear cinnamon; eye ring intense black, extending posteriorly to anterior base of ear; under parts creamy white, the hairs self-colored except on the sides of the belly where they have slaty bases; feet white; tail drabish brown above, scarcely paler below.

Skull practically as in *mexicana*; palate rather short and rostrum thickened; nasals moderately expanded posteriorly.

Measurements.—Total length, 228; head and body, 110; tail, 118; ear, 15.

Remarks.—*Marmosa mayensis* is the Yucatan representative of *M. mexicana* just as *M. gaumeri* is that of *M. canescens*. The pale creamy color of the under parts is widely different from the rich ochraceous buff of *mexicana*. *M. canescens* inhabits the rather arid region of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec while *M. mexicana* seems to be confined to more humid regions in Oaxaca and Vera Cruz. These two species have not been recorded from the same locality. Therefore, the occurrence of both *mayensis* and *gaumeri* at Izamal, well within the arid part of Yucatan, is of interest. Whether their local habits are identical or not might be investigated with profit.

* For convenience of comparison, the measurements of a topotype of *M. canescens*, kindly lent by the U. S. Biological Survey, are placed in parentheses after those of *gaumeri*.